

ROADS AND RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE

Right of Way Improvement Plan Objectives and Recommendations

Allen B. Reinhard, Chairman, September 3, 2006

Nantucket Town and County Right-of-Way Improvement Plan

The objectives and recommendations of the Right of Way Improvement Plan being developed by the Roads and Right of Way Committee are to:

1. Clarify which roads, ways, and walking paths currently in use in Nantucket County are public, and which are private, and require that a map of these public and private roads, ways and public property be made available to the public.
2. Determine which private roads and ways currently access public property or property open to the public and update the County Priority Takings List on an annual basis.
3. Explain the history of roads and ways on Nantucket from trails used by natives through European settlement to today's system of public, private and paper roads. This section will include definitions of proprietors' roads, 1799 Roads, abutters ways, footpaths and an explanation of the public's rights and responsibilities when traversing these ways.
4. Present a plan for a system of pedestrian walking paths, trails, and roadways connecting public, and private lands open to the public in Nantucket County.
5. Mark all public ways and access points with concrete monuments inscribed "Public Way".
6. Mark county roads, especially in rural areas, with concrete monuments with road name.
7. Require an annual budget for maintenance and oversight of public ways and future County takings of private ways where appropriate.
8. Include access and maintenance of the island's public and historic cemeteries in the County budget for Right of Way issues and maintenance.
9. Direct planners and Town and County officials to consider pedestrian and public access as primary issues when reviewing new development and land acquisition projects.
10. Clarify and explain the Chapter 91 waterfront issues and licenses issued to date regarding public access.
11. Develop a plan to bury utility lines and service cables throughout the island.

12. Create and fund a full-time Town/County Surveyor/Engineer Position to layout and plan roads, footpaths, and other public ways.
13. Create Town/County Right of Way Coordinator position.
14. Establish a policy and procedure regarding utility cuts and crossings on public and private roads. A right-of-way permit office could oversee permitting and inspection of utility work that impacts Town/County roads in order to guarantee road cuts and repairs are up to Town/County standards and remain so for at least two years.
15. Develop descriptions and a set of maintenance standards for various classes of public and private, paved, dirt and sand roads with authority given to enforce these standards.
16. Explore the possibility of creating a harbor walk on Town property on Nantucket Harbor.

Current as of 8.7.07